

What is claimed is:

1. A flashlight as defined in claim 2 wherein said battery holder has a pair of openings therein facilitating electrical connection of positive and negative terminals of said battery in circuit with said light source.

2. A flashlight as defined in claim 2 wherein said battery holder and said battery frame are mutually cooperable to prevent full insertion of said battery pack into said recess unless said battery pack is in a predetermined orientation relative to said battery frame when inserted into said recess.

3. A flashlight as defined in claim 4 wherein said battery frame includes an opening communicating with said recess so as to enable insertion of a pusher member into said opening to at least partially eject said battery pack from said recess.

4. A flashlight as defined in claim 5 wherein said battery holder has a post extending therefrom positioned to enter said opening when said battery pack is fully inserted into said recess, whereby a battery holder post on a similarly shaped battery holder can be inserted into said opening from externally of said battery frame to at least partially eject a battery pack when fully disposed within said recess.

5. A flashlight as defined in claim 4 wherein said battery holder has a generally planar surface disposed in substantially coplanar relation with said one of said edge surfaces when said battery pack is fully inserted into said recess.

6. A flashlight as defined in claim 7 wherein said battery holder has a locating arm adapted for receipt within a notch formed in said battery frame adjacent said recess when said battery pack is inserted into said recess disposed in said predetermined orientation.

7. A flashlight as defined in claim 2 wherein said battery frame includes a switch plate having a first surface defining a side boundary of said recess, said switch plate having a second opposite surface defining a guide slot, a switch slide plate disposed within said guide slot and movable to a first position enabling momentary closing of said circuit to energize said light source, said switch slide plate being movable to a second position enabling continuous closing of said circuit, said switch including a push button exposed externally of said housing and cooperative with said slide plate to enable an operator to move said slide plate between said first and second positions.

8. A flashlight as defined in claim 9 wherein said switch plate and said switch slide plate are mutually cooperable to establish an off position for said switch slide plate wherein said circuit is open, said push button being operative to move said slide plate to said first position from said off position in response to predetermined movement of said push button longitudinally of said housing, and being operative to effect movement of said slide plate to said second position in response to continued movement of said push button longitudinally of said housing from said off position.

9. A flashlight as defined in claim 10 wherein said switch plate and said slide plate define mutually cooperable detents operative to releasably maintain said slide plate in either said off or second positions in response to actuation of said push button by an operator.

10. A flashlight as defined in claim 3 wherein said light source comprises a LED having a pair of leads extending internally of said housing, one of said leads being interconnected to a negative terminal of said battery pack when disposed in said recess, said switch being operative to interconnect the other of said leads in circuit with the positive terminal of said battery pack without effecting physical contact of said other lead with said positive terminal.

11. A flashlight as defined in claim 2 wherein a selected one of said battery holder and housing recess has a detent thereon cooperative with a post formed on the other of said battery holder and housing so as to releasably retain said battery holder within said recess.

12. A flashlight as defined in claim 1 including a keyring extending outwardly from said housing so as to enable attachment of keys or a key chain to said keyring.

13. A flashlight as defined in claim 14 wherein said keyring includes a keyring lock operative to prevent unintentional release of keys or a key chain from said keyring.

14. A flashlight as defined in claim 1 wherein said keyring extends longitudinally outwardly from an end of said housing opposite said light source.

15. A flashlight as defined in claim 1 wherein said recess has a longitudinal axis disposed generally transverse to a longitudinal axis of said housing.

16. A flashlight as defined in claim 2 wherein said housing includes a pair of side covers retained against opposite sides of said battery frame by corresponding frame members, said frame members engaging only the periphery of the corresponding side covers so as to expose outwardly facing surfaces of said side covers.

17. A flashlight as defined in claim 18 wherein said battery frame, switch plate, battery holder and frame members are made of a non-metallic material, said side covers being made of a metallic material.

18. A flashlight as defined in claim 19 wherein said non-metallic material comprises plastic, and said metallic material comprises aluminum.

19. A flashlight comprising, in combination;
a light source,
a modular power source,
a housing at least partially enclosing said light source and having a recess opening externally of said housing for slidably receiving said power source in predetermined relation to said light source, and

a switch operatively associated with said housing and adapted to close a circuit including said light source and said modular power source so as to energize said light source, said switch being selectively operable in a first mode to momentarily close said circuit, and being selectively operable in a second mode to continuously close said circuit.

20. A flashlight as defined in claim 21 wherein said switch includes a push button carried by said housing, said push button being movable generally longitudinally of said housing to a first position to effect operation of said switch in said first mode, and being movable generally longitudinally of said housing to a second position to effect operation of said switch in said second mode.

21. A flashlight as defined in claim 22 wherein said push button includes an outer dome surface extending outwardly of said housing to facilitate actuation of said push button by an operator's thumb or finger.

22. A flashlight as defined in claim 21 wherein said modular power source comprises a modular battery pack including a battery holder enclosing at least one battery so as to prevent inadvertent release of said battery from said holder, said holder having a first opening enabling access to a positive pole of said battery, and having a second opening enabling access to a negative pole of said battery.

23. A flashlight as defined in claim 24 wherein said light source comprises a LED having leads extending therefrom, said housing including a battery frame defining said recess and supporting said LED with said leads extending into said battery frame, a selected one of said leads being interconnected to said negative pole of said battery without physically contacting said negative pole, the other of said leads being adapted for interconnection to said positive terminal without physically contacting said positive terminal in response to operation of said switch in said first and second modes.

24. A flashlight as defined in claim 21 wherein said modular power source comprises a modular battery pack including a battery holder enclosing at least one battery.

25. A flashlight as defined in claim 24 wherein said battery holder and said housing are mutually cooperable to prevent full insertion of said battery pack into said recess unless said battery pack is in a predetermined orientation relative to said housing when inserted into said recess.

26. A flashlight as defined in claim 26 wherein said housing includes an opening communicating with said recess so as to enable insertion of a pusher member into said opening to at least partially eject said battery pack from said recess when disposed therein.

27. A flashlight as defined in claim 28 wherein said battery holder has a post extending therefrom positioned to enter said opening when said battery pack is fully inserted into said recess, whereby a battery holder post on a similarly shaped battery holder can be inserted into said opening from externally of said housing to at least partially eject a battery pack when fully disposed within said recess.

28. A flashlight as defined in claim 26 wherein said battery holder has a generally planar surface disposed in substantially coplanar relation with an external surface of said housing adjacent said recess when said battery pack is fully inserted into said recess.

29. A flashlight as defined in claim 27 wherein said battery holder has a locating arm adapted for receipt within a notch formed in said housing adjacent said recess when said battery pack is inserted into said recess disposed in said predetermined orientation.

30. A flashlight as defined in claim 21 wherein said housing includes a battery frame having a switch plate having a first surface defining a side boundary of said recess, said switch plate having a second opposite surface defining a guide slot, a switch slide plate disposed within said guide slot and movable to a first position enabling momentary closing of said circuit to energize said light source, said switch slide plate being movable to a second position enabling continuous closing of said circuit, said switch including a push button exposed externally of said housing and cooperative with said slide plate to enable an operator to move said slide plate between said first and second positions.

31. A flashlight as defined in claim 32 wherein said switch plate and said switch slide plate are mutually cooperable to establish an off position for said switch slide plate wherein said circuit is open, said push button being operative to move said slide plate to said first position from said off position in response to predetermined movement of said push button longitudinally of said housing, and being operative to effect movement of said slide plate to said second position in response to continued movement of said push button longitudinally of said housing from said off position.

32. A flashlight as defined in claim 33 wherein said switch plate and said slide plate define mutually cooperable detents operative to releasably maintain said slide plate in either said off or second positions in response to actuation of said push button by an operator.

33. A flashlight as defined in claim 26 wherein said light source comprises a LED having a pair of leads extending internally of said housing, one of said leads being interconnected to a negative terminal of said battery pack when disposed in said recess, said switch being operative to interconnect the other of said leads in circuit with the positive terminal of said battery pack without effecting physical contact of said other lead with said positive terminal.